

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /068 W

----- 105075

R 241434Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2779

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 5808

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, LE

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS REACTION TO LEBANON VISIT BY
FSO'S HOUGHTON AND MACK

1. THE VISIT TO CHRISTIAN-HELD AREAS OF LEBANON BY FSOS HOUGHTON AND MACK HAS DRAWN SPOTTY AND BRIEF COVERAGE BY ISRAELI LOCAL PRESS, WITH NO EDITORIAL COMMENT. HAARETZ' WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT (MARGALIT) DID NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION THE HOUGHTON-MACK VISIT IN AN AUGUST 22 ARTICLE BUT REPORTED THAT THE US -- AS PART OF ITS PLANNING IN THE EVENT THAT PARTITION OF LEBANON OCCURS AFTER SARKIS TAKES OFFICE -- IS EXAMINING THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING REPRESENTATION IN CHRISTIAN LEBANON. MA'ARIV (DISSENTCHIK) AUGUST 22 ARTICLE LED WITH A STATEMENT THAT THE US HAS ESTABLISHED A DE FACTO CONSULATE IN JOUNIEH WITH THE ARRIVAL OF HOUGHTON AND MACK. THE ARTICLE CONTINUED WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S EXPLANATION OF THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP, ADDING THAT IT WOULD LAST ONE WEEK AND MIGHT BE FOLLOWED UP BY OTHER VISITS.

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2. AUGUST 23 PRESS CARRIED VIRTUALLY NOTHING ON THE SUBJECT, THE ONLY EXCEPTION BEING ONE LINE IN HAARETZ REPORTING THAT TASS MADE NO MENTION OF THE VISIT. MA'ARIV AUGUST 24 BACKED AWAY FROM ITS ARTICLE OF AUGUST 22, SAYING THAT THE ORIGINAL INTENTION TO OPEN A PERMANENT CONSULATE IN JOUNIEH HAD BEEN CANCELLED FOR FEAR THAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS US AGREEMENT TO DIVIDE LEBANON. DAVAR AUGUST 24 REPORTED THAT THE TWO AMERICAN DIPLOMATS HAD MET WITH FRANJIEH AND CHAMOUN, AND THAT THEIR VISIT TO LEBANON SIGNALLED NO CHANGE IN US POLICY.
TOON

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